



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 8, 2007

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ORANGE PARK MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TRANSPORTATION AND POSSESSION CHARGES

Jacksonville, FL - Acting U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt, Michael J. Folmar, Special Agent in Charge of the Jacksonville Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Bill McCollum, Florida Attorney General, announce today the unsealing of a two count indictment charging James R. Ritchie with transportation and possession of matters containing visual depictions of child pornography. Ritchie, age 31, is a resident of Orange Park, Florida. He was arrested by the FBI this afternoon and made his initial appearance late this afternoon. Ritchie's arraignment and detention hearing are scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. before Judge Howard T. Snyder. If convicted, Ritchie faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years' imprisonment and up to 20 years' imprisonment.

Count One of the indictment charges that on or about June 29, 2005, Ritchie knowingly transported and shipped and caused to be transported and shipped one or more matters in interstate and foreign commerce which contained child pornography. Count Two charges that on or about October 23, 2006, Ritchie knowingly possessed one or more matters which contained child pornography.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown, and was investigated by the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit of the State of Florida Attorney General's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The Florida Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit is a member of the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a federally funded program working nationwide to educate and support law enforcement to stop these crimes, and the FBI Cyber Taskforce in Jacksonville.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.